

Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) Program Overview

Purpose:

The objective of the Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) program is to restore, sustain, and improve commercial properties located within the City of Newport News.

Eligibility:

- ☒ Property is for commercial, industrial, office or mixed-use (mixed-use must have a commercial component)
- ☒ Property is taxable and structure is at least 10 years old
- ☒ Property and applicant are current on all City of Newport News taxes and fees (property, BPOL, machinery & tools, stormwater, etc.)

Properties ineligible for this program include:

- ☒ Stand-alone retail chains, national franchises, places of worship or residential buildings/complexes
- ☒ Ownership is by a City of Newport News employee, IDA/EDA Board member, other city official or their spouse

Eligible improvements include: installation of awnings, exterior lighting, window repair and replacements, paving, signage, accessibility ADA compliant projects, etc.

Application Requirements:

1. Completed application form
2. Valid applicant identification
3. Color photographs of current façade (must show façade/areas to be improved)
4. Written project description of intended façade improvements
5. Renderings, drawings, pictures and/or other material samples to show intended façade improvements
6. At least two (2) bids from Virginia "Class A" licensed contractors (DPOR number required) showing itemized projected costs*
7. Evidence of financial ability to meet matching requirements (bank statement, loan commitment letter, etc.)
8. Schedule of completion
9. \$25.00 application fee (reimbursed to FIG recipients as part of the grant)

*The City of Newport News reserves the right to obtain its own estimate

Grant Terms:

1. Maximum award amount is \$30,000
2. Matching requirement is 50% (1:1 Match)
3. Properties within a locally-designated Historic district or on the Virginia Landmarks Register, Historic properties designated by the National Register of Historic Places and properties within Enterprise Zones #2, #2-A and #3 may receive 75% of improvement costs (1:3 Match)**

**Improvements to Historic properties must align with specific Historic requirements

Process:

1. Applicant submits application and supplementary documentation.
2. Development accepts application and schedules FIG Team meeting that evaluates and recommends approval of application.
3. Revolving Loan Fund Committee (RLF) approves or denies application (subject to EDA board ratification).
4. Applicant is notified of decision.
5. If approved, terms of FIG Agreement are determined.
6. Improvements must be completed within 12 months of the date signed FIG Agreement.
7. Applicant submits documentation of completed project.